

FAXED

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Mr Philippe de Buck
The Secretary General
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Dear Philippe

Your letter of 6 March concerning the EU-India FTA negotiations was a timely reinforcement for my discussions with Minister Nath in London on 7 March. The key issues you raised - industrial goods, services and investment, procurement - coincide with my own priority concerns and were discussed extensively.

[4 sentences deleted – international relations exception]

I remain fully committed to an ambitious and substantive outcome and continue to seek to move the process forward. The negotiating team will be working to get greater clarity on some issues during the 4th round, which we hope will take place in April.

I am fully aware of the economic significance of a potential EU-India FTA for European businesses. Your joint statement with CII is a useful reminder of the interest of Indian business in these negotiations, including on issues such as procurement and the liberalisation of industrial products. I would be interested to hear of any further contacts you have with them.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for Business Europe's engagement and valuable input in this process and in other FTAs.

*You might make some comments to your counterparts in the CII
in view of the above.*

Peter Mandelson
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